

Guarding the Golden Gate • Fast Fielding for Soldier Systems

The Official U.S. Army Magazine

March 2004
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Soldiers



Warriors in the
Line of Fire



Cover Story — Page 8

M1 tanks of the Korea-based 72nd Armored Regiment practice an assault river crossing during a field training exercise. — *Beth Reece*

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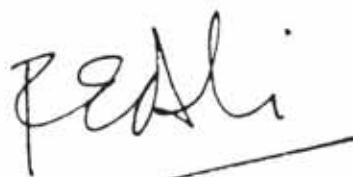
• soldiersmagazine.com



WHETHER charging across France in World War II with GEN George S. Patton or leading the Army's efforts as part of a coalition joint task force in Operation Iraqi Freedom, the Third U.S. Army has always been where the action is. In "Third Army: Mission Ready," Heike Hasenauer brings you a look at the largely behind-the-scenes work of the Soldiers of Third Army and their contributions to the War on Terror.

For a look at the important mission of our Soldiers in Korea, don't miss Beth Reece's "Warriors in the Line of Fire." Because the defense of the homeland is always on the forefront, you'll want to see Steve Harding's story and photos on "Guarding the Golden Gate." MSG Bob Haskell, one of our frequent contributors, reports on the contributions of the National Guard during this past year — truly magnificent service from some of America's finest. And COL Raymond K. Blum (Ret.) has the second in his new series on each month's historic Army events.

Lastly, I would like to thank LTC John Suttle for his service to his country and the Army over the last 20 years. As the editor in chief of *Soldiers* for the past three years, John and the incredible group of professionals here at the magazine produced an award-winning product for and about America's Army. His enthusiasm and leadership will be missed, and we at *Soldiers* wish him all the best.



Rob Ali
Editor in Chief



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Soldiers

Recipient of Awards of Magazine Excellence



Rank Pictures

FIRST, I would like to say that over the past months you have been putting out just a superb magazine. You focus on the many fronts on which the Army is engaged, while not really forgetting any aspect of the full-spectrum mission.

Second, I notice that you make a concerted effort to include photos of junior enlisted Soldiers. I would also urge you to keep in mind the junior officers and warrant officers as well. Each photo is a potential recruiting poster as the person featured shows it to family and friends, and we need to make sure all bases are covered.

Thanks for a good product.

Steven J. Rogge
via e-mail

Different Photographer

THANKS for running the three stories about the Army National Guard in the December edition of Soldiers.

Unfortunately, the wrong person was credited with the two photos you ran with the story "Guard Soldiers at War." I wrote the story but I did not take those photos. The shooter was SPC Matthew McClelland of the Indiana Army National Guard. He was the photographer for the 1st Battalion, 293rd Infantry, while it was on duty in Iraq and Kuwait.

MSG Bob Haskell
via e-mail

Not a Hurricane

WE'VE received a number of letters and e-mails regarding a photo that appeared in our December article "Battling Isabel." The photo, which we and apparently quite a few other publications used to support stories about Hurricane Isabel, shows a cargo vessel sailing toward a massive wall of storm clouds.

However, as many of our readers pointed out, several weather-related Web sites have questioned the authenticity of the photo. Most authorities

agree that not only does the photo not depict Hurricane Isabel, the weather phenomenon it depicts is not a hurricane at all.

While we agree with the old adage that it doesn't take a weatherman to know which way the wind blows, we're now convinced it does take one to know what a hurricane looks like at sea.

Go for Broke

HEIKE Hasenauer did an excellent job on the November article "Go for Broke" honoring Japanese-American veterans. By the way, the 100th Battalion, 442nd Regiment, is still going strong with the Army Reserve under the 9th Regional Support Command at Fort Shafter, Hawaii.

As the Equal Opportunity Program manager for the 9th RSC, I see the history of Japanese-American Soldiers in World War II as one of the greatest stories ever told about overcoming discrimination and adversity.

Thank you for bringing the accomplishments of these great veterans to the attention of all your readers.

MAJ Grant Porter
via e-mail

MP Switch

ON page 15 of the October issue there is a photo caption identifying a Soldier in Iraq as SPC Dan Williams of the 411th Military Police Company from Fort Hood, Texas. The Soldier in the picture is actually SPC Christopher Lortz of the 411th.

SGT Michael C. Ramirez
via e-mail

What About Single Soldiers?

I AM writing to comment on the "Hot Topics" insert "Reunion" in the August issue. Our unit in Iraq is using it as the redeployment briefing, and it is required reading before we return to the continental United States.

In the interest of "leaving no one

behind," I submit that leaving out Soldiers who will not return to a family situation or a relationship environment is a grave breach and a travesty. The only mention made of reunion issues pertaining to single Soldiers is on page 13 in the "Tips for Commanders" box, and all it says is "Identify single soldiers without support systems."

In our 13-member unit we have three unmarried Soldiers, another who is part of a dual-military couple whose spouse just arrived in Iraq for a year's deployment and another who has been unable to contact the spouse for the past several months. The implication of leaving these Soldiers, who may return to empty homes, out of the discussions is unacceptable. It implies that their service, their well-being and possibly even they themselves are worth less to the Army than are their married colleagues.

This is my fourth deployment. Topics concerning single Soldiers or those with absent spouses were also left out of the mandatory chaplains' briefings for the other redeployments. I do not know what percentage of the troops are single or have absent spouses. I recommend that even for this small number, the chaplains and redeployment mental-health experts spend some time and effort to learn the needs of these forgotten Soldiers. Redeployment briefings should either be separate, or include advice for the single. And commanders should be advised on how to deal with those Soldiers lacking support systems, once they are identified.

Dr. (COL) Linda R. Atteberry
Kirkuk, Iraq



For links to the Army News Service and Soldiers Radio Live, visit www.army.mil



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Afghanistan

Soldiers prepare to sling load a Humvee and M-119 howitzer on a CH-47 helicopter back to Salerno Forward Operating Base at the end of Operation Avalanche.

— Photo by SPC Gul A. Alisan





▲ Afghanistan

Soldiers from the 1st Battalion, 501st Infantry Regiment, search vehicles at a checkpoint during Operation Avalanche.

— Photo by SPC Gul A. Alisan



▲ Kosovo

SPC Lewis Vitello, from the Pennsylvania National Guard's 56th Inf. Bde., secures a church in Letnica, Kosovo.

— Photo by SGT Marcus J. Quarterman

► Iraq

Stryker Brigade Soldiers of the 5th Bn., 20th Inf., conduct combat operations in Samarra.

— Photo by SPC Clinton Tarzia





▲ Iraq

SPC Timothy Johnson, from the 4th Inf. Division, shares a peaceful moment with a young Iraqi.

— Photo by SGT Brian Cox

WARRIORS in t



An OH-58D Kiowa Warrior of the 4th Squadron, 7th Cavalry, fires at a target on one of the Rodriguez Live Fire Complex's ranges.

he Line of Fire

Story and Photos by Beth Reece



THE line between peace and war is thin for U.S. Soldiers who live within range of 10,000 artillery tubes and a million enemy troops.

While a delicate, 50-year-old ceasefire still quells the war between North and South Korea, Soldiers of the South Korea-based U.S. 2nd Infantry Division know the truce is delicate.

"If the horn blows, we've got to be ready to grab our gear and go," said MAJ Steven Alexander, operations officer for the division's 2nd Brigade.

The 2nd Inf. Div. is the Army's most forward-stationed unit, scattered across 17 installations in the northwestern part of South Korea.

The division can be ready for war on short notice. Their mission is to engage aggressors and defend South Korea against invasion. The Soldiers would also evacuate the 226 South Korean residents of Daeseong-dong, the only village existing inside the demilitarized zone.

(Continued on page 10)

▶ The Soldiers of the 2nd Inf. Div. must be ready at a moment's notice to react to North Korean aggression.

▶ Keeping the division's vehicles ready to move at any time is an important part of the division's mission.

▶ Armored earthmovers are on hand to fill in ditches that might otherwise slow the division's advance.



(Continued from page 9)

Warriors

The division's 1st and 2nd brigades are a mixture of heavy and light forces with M1 tanks and Bradley fighting vehicles. Combined, the brigades have two armored battalions, two mechanized-infantry battalions and two air-assault infantry battalions. They also have the largest division artillery unit in the Army, with two battalions of self-propelled howitzers and two of Multiple Launch Rocket Systems.

To help it face one of the largest, best-disciplined militaries in the world, the division also has an aviation and engineer brigade and the Div. Support Command.

In combat, the aviation brigade would use its OH-58 Kiowa and AH-64 Apaches helicopters to scout out and attack enemy locations and formations for commanders planning tactical operations. The brigade would also boost the division's power with air-assaults to insert Soldiers into critical, hard-to-reach spots.

"Moving 1,000-plus Soldiers is very complex. There are lots of



moving pieces — deploying the force, making contact with the enemy, and closing in and destroying," said MAJ Robert Cuniff, operations officer for the 1st Battalion, 506th Inf. Regiment.

When barriers like concertina wire, minefields and water halt movement, the division's engineer brigade rushes forth. Combat engineers can disable explosives, break through obstacles and build bridges to

▲ Air assault capabilities help the 506th Infantry Regiment get to hard-to-reach spots.

◀ PV2 Bryan Rohwer of the 506th performs maintenance on his M-240 during a field training exercise.

get troops and equipment over water. They can also dig fighting positions or keep enemies at bay by planting their own minefields.

Threats of a possible North Korean nuclear attack cause no extra alarm for the 2nd Inf. Div.'s commanding general, MG John R. Wood.

"It's just another element of the battlefield," he said. "We're trained and ready to operate in any environment, with all types of weapons against us."

Two Against One

The 2nd Inf. Div. partners with the Republic of Korea army to help keep communist North Korea from swallowing the south into its dictatorial reign.

"There will probably be a ROK battalion or brigade on both sides of us if we have to fight," Alexander said.



The 1st and 2nd brigades each have a sister ROK unit with which they practice force-on-force training. The U.S. also has KATUSAs, or Korean Augmentation to the U.S. Army troops, who are ROK army soldiers integrated into U.S. units.

KATUSAs live and work alongside American Soldiers. They sleep in the same barracks, eat in the same dining facilities, and fight from the same foxholes and tanks. To help them function with U.S. units, KATUSAs get trained on marksmanship; land navigation; nuclear, biological and chemical hazards; and even American customs and courtesies.

The 2nd Inf. Div. partners with the Republic of Korea army to help keep communist North Korea from swallowing the south into its dictatorial reign.

Hardship

Duty in Korea is a one-year "hardship" tour, known for long field exercises and frequent gunnery drills. The constant turnover rate keeps the division from shrinking its training schedule. The Soldiers practice firing weapons and engage in battle drills that include holding defensive and offensive positions, clearing areas for combat support, air-assault missions, force protection and sustainment.

The assistant division commander for maneuver, BG Thomas M. Jordan, is adamant about schooling his Soldiers in the tactics of war.

"We train with nonstop operations. There isn't a lull in the action between 'battles.' We 'fight,' reconstitute and continue on another mission. It's exactly what we would do in real war," he said. "Should war occur, these Soldiers will operate confidently."

The Rodriguez Live Fire Complex is almost second home to Soldiers of the 4th Squadron, 7th Cavalry Regt. They use more of the ranges than any other unit on the peninsula, typically running four to eight ranges at a time.

"We have more equipment than most units, plus we sometimes integrate with the Air Force. Timing is crucial when you're continuously pounding the enemy with several different weapons systems," said MAJ Willie Nuckols, the squadron operations officer.

Kiowa pilot CPT Jeffry Milchanowski described the complexity of synchronized operations during a recent drill.

"From the cockpit, I'm 'talking' with four different radios at the same time — to the mortar crews, the command-and-control element, the jets and the ground controller. I'm also flying the helicopter and employing the weapons systems," he said. "It takes a lot of coordination and concentration."

Thermal cameras record Soldiers' progress while they're downrange. Every shot, every verbal command — in both aircraft and tanks — is collected to help Soldiers review their actions and refine their skills.

A Different World

Most 2nd Inf. Div. Soldiers say training in Korea isn't what they expected. The terrain and weather are harsh, and the Asian culture can be startling for an 18-year-old private away from home for the first time.

"This would be a bad country to fight in. The weather is brutal and the terrain is rough," Alexander said. "It's also highly urbanized. So where you don't have mountains with drastic contours, you've got urban areas that are just as tough to maneuver through."

Despite the hardships posed by constant training, LTC Brian Preler, commander of 4th Sqdn., 7th Cav., believes Soldiers stationed in the northernmost camps of South Korea are glad to have a defined mission, even if the North's actions are unpredictable.

"This is as close as you can get to what the Soldiers in Iraq are doing

(Continued on page 12)



▲ An engineer practices clearing a path through concertina wire and a simulated mine field so infantrymen can advance toward an objective.



▶ The OH-58D Kiowa Warriors of the 4th Sqdn., 7th Cav., add to the brigade's firepower.

▶ Soldiers of the 72nd Armd. Regt. practice a river crossing.

(Continued from page 11)

without somebody firing at you," he said. "These guys enlisted to do Army 'stuff.' If you're a tanker or a scout, that's what you want to be doing."

Soldiers in Korea quickly find themselves in charge. SPC David Sprenke, a 22-year-old gunner for 4th Sqdn., 7th Cav., often finds himself leading others.

"That's the easiest part about my job, because Soldiers here are serious. They know what they're doing and they get the job done," he said. "Plus, most of us enjoy the training we get. There's nothing better than shooting rounds down-range."

SPC Patrick Moore, an M-240 gunner with the 1st Bn., 506th Inf. Regt., served three years in the Army and got out. Missing the brotherhood he found only in the Army, he re-enlisted. "I was a fireman on the outside, and the camaraderie didn't come close to this."

His opinion is shared by the 506th's executive officer, MAJ Raul Gonzalez.

"I'd feel confident doing anything with these Soldiers. They would fight for their buddies. They would fight for the values that were instilled in them when they grew up," he said. "They're the best America has to offer." 🇺🇸



On the Road

Story and Photos by Beth Reece



ADD a convoy of armored vehicles to a South Korean country road — what do you get?

"A hazard. This is harvest time, so lots of farmers are out on their tractors. You never know if one will be around the corner," said MAJ Nancy-Jo Newell, transportation officer for the 2nd Infantry Division.

Mobility is everything to an army that prides itself on the ability to get anywhere quickly. But without help from their transportation office, getting from point A to point B would be a slow ride for 2nd Infantry Division Soldiers who must brave narrow roads, heavy traffic, thick fog and bridges too weak for some U.S. vehicles to cross, Newell said.

"We're guests here, and these roads have limitations we're not used to dealing with," she said.

To travel, units must first arrange times and dates of movement with the division's transportation office. Transportation specialists then acquire clearance numbers from a movement-control battalion that's run by the Republic of Korea army. The numbers are shared among units in both U.S. and ROK armies to help manage the number of convoys on the road at any one time.

The transportation office coordinates daily movement of

around 70 convoys — almost 600 vehicles — during exercises. To reduce the risks of accidents, units typically move at night in convoys of four or more vehicles.

Today the 2nd Military Police Company and the Korean National Police add another layer of safety to troop movement, said Newell. The Korean police support the movement of tracked and oversized wheeled vehicles by setting up traffic-control points along projected routes, usually at major intersections or in towns. The MPs also escort convoys to alert locals that oversized vehicles are in tow.

"If MPs weren't out there Soldiers would have a much greater possibility of being involved in accidents," said SFC Michael Cosper, operations sergeant for the 2nd MP Co. "We're keeping folks alive." 🇺🇸

▲ Soldiers such as PFC Jada Roderick from the 2nd Military Police Company help man traffic-control points along convoy routes.

▼ The 2nd Infantry Division Transportation Office works alongside the 2nd MP Co. and members of the Korean National Police to make convoy movement smoother on Korean roads.





Duty on the DMZ

Story and Photos by Beth Reece

AND mines and barbed wire blanket the no-man's land that divides communist North Korea from its southern, politically separated half. But hatred still stretches over the 151-mile-long Military Demarcation Line.

"There's always a look of total disgust on the North Korean soldiers' faces. We have no doubts about how they feel," said CPT Lucas Braxton.

Braxton is adjutant for the United Nations Command Security Battalion — Joint Security Area at Camp Bonifas, Korea. He's joined by 250 U.S. Soldiers, each well aware that their presence is like a thorn in North Korea's side.

The UNCSB-JSA helps South Korea monitor compliance with the Military Armistice Agreement that halted the three-year Korean War in July, 1953. The agreement directs North and South Korea to stay out of one another's land, sea and air space. But recurring armistice violations by the

(Continued on page 16)

Only a concrete line separates North and South Korea at the Joint Security Area. South Korean guards stand at the corner of buildings in the JSA. The guards make themselves smaller targets by standing with half their bodies exposed and the other half behind the building.

Propaganda signs are posted throughout the North Korean mountains overlooking the JSA.



▲ North Korean guards serve 12-year stints along the DMZ.



(Continued from page 15)

North continually confirm the need for vigilance along the demilitarized zone.

UNCSB-JSA Soldiers secure the DMZ alongside members of the Republic of Korea army, which accounts for about 60 percent of the joint command. A platoon stands guard 24-7, ready to react in under 60 seconds should North Korea test boundaries set by the armistice.

The Soldiers also keep watch over Daeseong-dong, the only village existing inside the DMZ. Residents must be able to prove their ancestry back to the Korean War. They live under nightly curfews and constant reminders that the enemy is near. But residents' thoughts of moving elsewhere are tempered by the South Korean government, which exempts Daeseong-dong residents from taxes and promises steady incomes to its farmers.

"Sometimes the North Koreans like to disrupt farming. They'll cross a few meters over the boundaries and smoke a cigarette before going back just to test our reaction," Braxton said. "I wouldn't say the farmers are scared of them, but they don't want to take any chances."

The Military Armistice Commis-

"If you took a poll asking Americans what the Joint Security Area is or what the DMZ is, the majority of them would probably start talking about Vietnam."

sion requests meetings with officials from the north to discuss such violations. "But they never answer us," Braxton said.

≡ Handpicked

U.S. Soldiers serve one-year tours at the JSA and are handpicked based on physical condition, maturity and attitude. ROK soldiers serve two years, and each must obtain a security clearance from the Korean government to help guard against communist sympathizers.

Soldiers camped along the DMZ get used to the blaring sounds of propaganda that drifts into the south via strategically placed speakers in North Korea. At night, the North

seems to fade from existence.

"There's no electricity. All you see is black, and sometimes you hear metal clanging," Braxton said. "It's very eerie."

Security escorts at the UNCSB-JSA guide about 100,000 tours a year. SPC Bryce Mahoney has guided everyone from fellow Soldiers to governors and ambassadors.

"We do this out of respect for the thousands of Soldiers who died in the Korean War, and to educate people on why we're still here mediating between North and South Korea," said Mahoney. "If you took a poll asking Americans what the Joint Security Area is or what the DMZ is, the majority of them would probably start talking about Vietnam. The Korean War is the forgotten war."

Two North Korean guards hold watch on their edge of the DMZ, their watchful gaze always directed South. Throughout their 12-year stints on the DMZ, North Korean soldiers are ordered to shoot anyone who betrays their brutal dictator, Kim Jong-Il.

On the opposite side, South Korean guards stand poker-faced at the corner of conference buildings that straddle the DMZ — half of their bodies exposed, the other half behind cover to give the North Koreans smaller targets should they start firing rounds.

The only buildings on South Korea's side of the JSA are the Peace House, where peace talks are held, and the Freedom House.

"The Freedom House is akin to what you see in Propaganda Village," Braxton said. "There's no use for that building other than for ceremony."

Almost 100 Americans have died in hostile fire with North Koreans since the armistice was signed. More than 130 have been wounded in action. The most recent death occurred Dec. 17, 1994, when CW2

◀ Prisoners of war were exchanged via the Bridge of No Return during Operations Little and Big Switch. North Koreans will not allow the South to replace the rusty sign marking the Military Demarcation Line because they see it as a violation of the armistice.





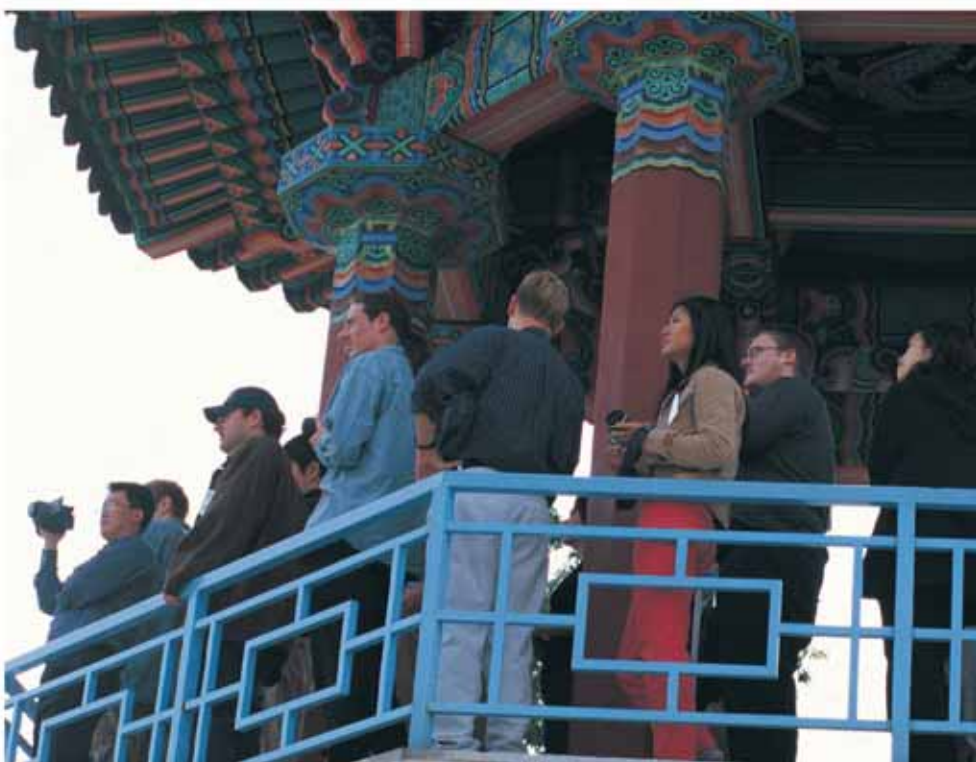
▲ North Korean and South Korean guards stand watch at the Joint Security Area.

► Escorts at the JSA guide about 100,000 tours a year. The North Korean guards give only six to 10 tours a week.

David Hilemon and CW2 Bobby Hall's aircraft was shot down after accidentally straying into North Korean airspace. Hilemon died; Hall was held captive for 13 days.

In December 2002 — the same year President George W. Bush coined North Korea part of an "axis of evil" in his 2002 State of the Union address — the North Korean army set up machine guns along the DMZ.

"The North Koreans believe we're here occupying South Korea. They don't trust us," Braxton said. "But we don't trust them either." ❧





LIFESAVING

Story By SFC Lisa Gregory

Maintenance

AS military doctors and nurses are learning to use the tools of their trades, Soldiers at Sheppard Air Force Base, Texas, are learning to maintain and repair those tools.

Learning to identify and repair problems with X-ray machines and dental and laboratory equipment is initially challenging for students enrolled in the 41-week Department of Defense Biomedical Equipment Maintenance Technician Basic Course. By the end of their training, they have the confidence to work on the equipment that saves lives.

The first weeks of the course deal with electronic principles, electrical-current theory, and the skills needed to interpret equipment diagrams and schematics. The course also provides a study skills workshop.

"Students have to be mentally prepared for the long haul — 41 weeks is a long time to be here," said SGM Gilbert Rangel, the course's senior enlisted advisor. "For those who've been out of school for a while, sitting through these classes can be difficult."

After two months of studying electronic theory and reviewing basic math skills, students are ready to work on real equipment.

"This is the first hands-on troubleshooting block for them," said instructor SSG Gerald Terrazas. "Here they'll work with sterilizers, one of the biggest pieces of equipment they'll see throughout the course."

During Block 4 students begin to put theory to practical use. They begin to use schematic diagrams to identify problems inside ultrasonic cleaners and sterilizers, and develop ways to



◀ A "more experienced" student works on a film processor during a troubleshooting exercise in Block 9. By this portion of the course students are expected to work independently to complete daily exercises.

▶ Being able to take proper voltage readings is the necessary first step in troubleshooting complex electronic equipment.



repair those problems.

"I'm cross-training from the active Army to the Reserve and my unit needs a medical-equipment repairer," said SPC Jayson Puckett. "It's a challenging school, because we're dealing with the real equipment that hospitals use everyday."

MSG Mark Leach, a course curriculum developer, said it's important for the students to understand the job's real-world applications.

"It's a challenging school. It has to be," he said. "Not only are medical personnel relying on them, but so is the family whose baby is using the incubator they repaired. That's what's important here."

As students progress through the course they hone their maintenance skills on smaller pieces of equipment, such as infusion pumps, incubators, ventilators and anesthesia systems.

"By the time the students reach us in Block 9 they're expected to be able to work on their own," said instructor SSG James Johnson. "We tend to demand more from them here than will probably be demanded of them in the field. Here they work with mobile radiographic units, dental X-ray machines and film processors."

Students get hands-on training with about 40 different pieces of equipment. Army students are also required to go through a challenging field exercise, during which they learn to set up and tear down a field hospital, troubleshoot problems that may arise with the equipment, teach equipment operators basic equipment

"Not only are medical personnel relying on them, but so is the family whose baby is using the incubator they repaired."

and focus on basic Soldier skills.

Students arrive at the field site after completing a road march, to find equipment still packed in containers. From there they learn how to unpack and set up equipment to establish a field hospital.

"I thought setting up and breaking down the equipment was very helpful," said SPC Francisco Luengas. "I wish the other services could participate in training like this, especially when you're working in MOPP gear and trying to repair equipment. It's real-world training."

SFC John Campbell, field site NCOIC, said the highlight for students during the field exercise is learning everything they can about a specific piece of equipment and then teaching the operators how to use it properly to help reduce equipment damage.

"The challenging part of being out here is teaching the operators how to use and maintain the equipment," said recent course graduate SPC Nicholas Haak. "If they don't know how to put it together when they get out here, and take it apart, it will get broken."

"The hands-on training we get here is much better than what most colleges offer," said PFC Craig Sudheimer.


Even those with previous training agree.

"I've done calibration work in the private sector before, but the training I've received here will definitely give me more experience in other areas as well," said SPC Timothy Dunlap, another student.

To help students maintain the skills they learn in the basic course, the school offers them the chance to return for more advanced training.

Advanced-course material includes service and repair of radiology, ultrasound and mammography equipment, and fiber-optic repair. Returning students can also get training on computer-based medical systems.

"I have a need for these courses because I have different teams in the field and may not always have an X-ray technician available," said David Alyea, an X-ray class student from Medical Material Center, Europe. "Here I get to hone my X-ray maintenance skills and take back some excellent training for my folks."

The instructors' reward comes from hearing of their students' successes. Leach said that during Operation Iraqi Freedom it hurt to hear that Soldiers were wounded in action, but he was proud to know that graduates of the BMET course were on hand to maintain the equipment that helped save lives. 

◀ SFC Antonio Moncibais, NCOIC of the Advanced Courses, reviews a student's work in one of the medical computer classes.



Third Army:

Story by Heike Hasenauer Photos by SFC David K. Dismukes



"This is the Army's only operational warfighting headquarters that is forward-deployed and deployable anywhere in the AOR as a state-of-the-art command, control, intelligence and communications headquarters."

THIRD U.S. Army, located at Fort McPherson, Ga., was known as "Patton's Own" in World War II. Under command of LTG George S. Patton Jr., Third Army participated in eight major operations and, according to historical records, inflicted many more casualties on the enemy than the enemy did on it.

In 1991 Third Army led coalition forces to victory in Operation Desert Storm. Today, it leads Army troops who are deployed in two of the most demanding hotspots in the world — Iraq and Afghanistan.

"I think the experience that Third Army headquarters has had in the last two years of operations — focused in Afghanistan and Iraq — made everybody

- ▶ Constant training — such as live-fire exercises at Udari Range in northwestern Kuwait — keep Third Army's combat units ready for action.
- ▶ Much of Third Army's planning for operations in Iraq takes place at the Coalition Forces Land Component Command's Command Operations and Intelligence Center at Camp Doha, Kuwait.



Mission-Ready





ARCENT's AOR — 6.5 million square miles in 25 countries — is an area that contains the majority of the world's oil and natural-gas reserves, and is the primary link between Europe and Asia. It's inhabited by some 520 million people, who speak 12 major languages and represent seven major religions.

aware that this is a deployable, operational, warfighting headquarters in a most volatile area," said Third Army commander LTG David D. McKiernan.

As the Army's headquarters element within the joint-services U.S. Central Command, Third Army is commonly known as ARCENT, for Army Central Command. As such, it's responsible for providing command and control for all Army forces entering a theater of operations in its area of responsibility, or AOR, and for providing critical communication links to joint combatant commanders in the field.

ARCENT's AOR — 6.5 million square miles in 25 countries — is an area that contains the majority of the world's oil and natural-gas reserves, and is the primary link between Europe and Asia. Inhabited by some 520 million people, who speak 12 major languages and represent seven major religions, it's an area where history and culture pose unique challenges, Army officials have said.

The landscape spans countries on the Arabian Peninsula,

including Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and Qatar; to Egypt and Jordan; Djibouti, Kenya, Somalia and Sudan in the Horn of Africa; and Afghanistan, Iran, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan and Uzbekistan in South Central Asia.

Third Army headquarters can deploy to a crisis area at a moment's notice and assume the role of Joint Forces Land Component Command, as it did in Kuwait, at the beginning of Operation Enduring Freedom, officials said. In the coming months Third Army will monitor the largest movement of troops since World War II.

"This is the Army's only operational warfighting headquarters that is forward-deployed and deployable anywhere in the AOR as a state-of-the-art command, control, intelligence and communications headquarters," McKiernan said. "This is a headquarters where Soldiers have to be ready to deploy, as we've been in the last two years. For those who want to go to the sound of the guns, this is the place to be."

▼ Third Army personnel coordinate, control and synchronize all land operations in the AOR — including those of these Soldiers and vehicles of the 3rd Infantry Division patrolling near a palace of former Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein.





▲ Operations within Third Army's AOR are not without risk — here Soldiers from 2nd Battalion, 3rd Aviation Regiment, mourn following a memorial ceremony for six fellow Soldiers killed in the crash of a Black Hawk helicopter



▲ Third Army's leaders could not be more proud of the organization's members, or of those Soldiers who come under the unit's operational control upon deployment to the Third Army AOR.

For personnel assigned to Third Army, the mission includes coordinating, controlling and synchronizing all the land operations in the AOR.

A ARCENT-Kuwait, headquartered at Camp Doha, is responsible for the reception and staging of personnel arriving in the theater and for installation support for the facilities at Arifjan, Kuwait.

A ARCENT-Saudi Arabia, headquartered at Eskan Village, is the administrative headquarters for Army forces in Saudi Arabia.

A ARCENT-Qatar, headquartered at Doha, is responsible for base support for a heavy brigade set and division base of prepositioned equipment, in addition to its other duties to facilitate the reception, staging, onward movement and integration of forces deploying in support of operations, exercises and contingencies.

As Third Army continues to execute multiple and parallel operations, CSM John D. Sparks said he could not be more proud of the organization's officers, NCOs and civilians, and of what they have accomplished in the continuing war on terrorism.

"This is an incredible organization and it has the capability to execute just about any operation," Sparks said. "It's an organization full of incredible people who will continue to do amazing things in the future." 🚩

Guarding the





Golden Gate

Story and Photos by Steve Harding

FEW structures in the United States are as physically imposing, economically important and universally recognized as California's Golden Gate Bridge. Unfortunately, in today's world those qualities also make it an ideal target for terrorists.

"This bridge is a national icon," said CPT John T. Preston of the California Army National Guard's 1st Battalion, 143rd Field Artillery Regiment. "And the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, showed us clearly that those who want to strike a psychological blow against this country are drawn to our national icons."

Though his usual Guard assignment is as a 143rd FA firing-battery commander, Preston is currently the mission OIC for Operation Golden Span II, the California Guard's effort to protect the bridge against terrorist attack.

The first Operation Golden Span was initiated just after the Sept. 11 attacks to secure two bridges in Southern California, the Golden Gate and the Bay Bridge connecting San Francisco with nearby Oakland, Preston said. The mission evolved over time and eventually came to include just the Golden Gate.

A Vital Link

The Golden Gate is more than just a symbol — it is also a high-value economic target.

The historic span — which connects San Francisco with Marin County to the north — is a vital transportation link crossed by some 111,000 vehicles each day, and if terrorists succeeded in destroying it or blocking the roadway, traffic would have to take a lengthy and time-consuming detour, officials said. Moreover, the tolls charged to motorists traveling across the bridge from north to south pour nearly \$5 million into California's coffers every month.

(Continued on page 26) ►

The Golden Gate — seen here from its southern end — is a vital transportation link and a major revenue generator for California. The brick structure is the Civil War-era Fort Point.



“Several agencies — federal, state and local — share responsibility for the safety and security of the bridge and its approaches.”

Given the bridge’s importance, ensuring that it remains open, unobstructed and secure is a task that involves a number of organizations.

“Several agencies — federal, state and local — share responsibility for the safety and security of the bridge and its approaches,” said LTC James M. Kennedy, commander of the 1st Bn., 143rd FA, and task force commander for Operation Golden Span II.

“The Golden Gate Bridge Authority’s police force is responsible for the overall security of the structure, the California Highway Patrol is responsible for the thoroughfare across the bridge, the Coast Guard is responsible for the water beneath it and the National Park Service is responsible for the historic sites at each end. So the effort to secure the bridge is obviously a multi-agency joint operation,” Kennedy said.

The Guard’s role in the operation is to provide the sort of round-the-clock military protection that the other agencies cannot offer, he said.

“Guard Soldiers on state active duty are authorized by law to provide armed support to civilian law-enforcement organizations, and have the weapons, equipment and training to do the job,” Kennedy added.

A Robust Force

While information on the exact size and makeup of the Guard’s

While bridge security is the primary mission, Guard Soldiers also routinely interact with visitors at Fort Point and other areas near the bridge.

bridge-security force is restricted for obvious security reasons, Kennedy called it "robust."

"The 143rd FA has command and control of the mission, and about half the Soldiers involved in Operation Golden Span II are from that unit," he said. "The remainder belong to the California Guard's 1st Bn., 184th Inf. Regt., and other units based mainly in the northern part of the state."

The mission is controlled by a headquarters located in the vicinity of the bridge, Preston said. And because several agencies have a stake in the bridge and its security, coordination among all the players is essential.

"In addition to maintaining constant communications within the unit, we communicate directly with the other agencies," he said. "While there are several lines of jurisdiction, there are no turf wars because we all have a great sense of teamwork."

That close coordination at the command level prevents a duplication of effort by the various agencies involved, Kennedy said, and allows the Soldiers on the ground to concen-

trate on the job at hand.

The nature of that job is wide-ranging, and the way the Guard Soldiers go about it is based on an in-depth assessment of the structure's vulnerabilities, he said.

"Without getting too specific because of operational-security concerns, it's safe to say that this mission includes such things as roving patrols and guarding certain key bridge structures and facilities," Kennedy said.

Trained and Motivated

The Soldiers assigned to Operation Golden Span II work in teams, each of which is usually led by a staff sergeant. While most team members have artillery MOSs, there are also infantrymen and Soldiers from other skill areas. The Soldiers are armed and are authorized to use their weapons within established parameters, Preston said.

"We put a lot of emphasis on Soldiers understanding the rules governing the use of force," he said. "We train in a variety of areas,

including observation and reporting techniques, weapons qualification and reinforcing common tasks."

The other "secret weapon" in the mission, Kennedy said, is the motivation of the Soldiers involved.

"They take this mission very seriously, and they don't see it as just a 9-to-5 job," he said. "The potential threat against this structure is a serious one, and these Soldiers are dedicated to ensuring that no harm comes to the bridge or those who use it or work on it.

"This job is different every day," said SPC Devin L. Sorenson of 1st Bn., 184th Inf. "The size and complexity of the bridge, and the nature of the mission, make every day interesting. There is nothing mundane about this job."

A Public Operation

The Guard Soldiers' dedication to ensuring the safety of those who use the Golden Gate Bridge often takes them well beyond their usual military duties, Preston said.

(Continued on page 28) ➤



Guard Soldiers conduct roving patrols on and near the bridge, as well as guarding specific structures and facilities. Protecting the bridge is a multi-agency joint operation, and close coordination among the various players is essential.



The potential threat against the Golden Gate is a serious one, and the California National Guard is dedicated to doing its part in the combined state and federal effort to secure and protect the historic structure.

"Our Soldiers have helped a number of people who were in distress," he said.

For example, team leader SGT Manuel E. Lerma of Co. D, 1st Bn., 184th Inf. Regt., rendered first aid to a female runner who had a severe panic attack just after running across the bridge during a marathon. In another incident, Guard Soldiers saw a woman drive her car over a guardrail along San Francisco Bay and were able to pull her to safety.

"These Soldiers don't have to be told to help out in an emergency," Preston said. "If somebody is in trouble or needs help, these Soldiers show initiative and do what needs to be done."

"Our primary mission is to guard the bridge," Lerma said. "But we also deal with the public every day. Because we're often in areas that get a lot of tourists, people are always coming up to us and asking questions about the Army, the Guard and why we're here at the bridge. We do whatever we can to answer their questions and help them out in any way we can."

The public's reaction to seeing

"We're helping to secure one of the nation's most important structures, and I think we all take pride in that."

BDU-clad, weapon-carrying Soldiers guarding the bridge has been almost universally positive, Preston said, though some people need a bit more time to get used to the military presence.

"Some people are a little leery of us at first, because they might never have seen armed Soldiers in public," said SGT Antonio D. Washington, of Service Battery, 1st Bn., 143rd FA. "But we make an effort to be friendly and personable, and that helps break the ice."


And once the ice is broken, visitors often express their gratitude for the important work the Soldiers are doing.

"People often thank us for being out here and doing this job," said Sorenson. "Most of the folks we interact with realize how important it is to the state and the nation to keep this bridge intact and operating normally."

An Important Mission

"This is an interesting mission, probably one of the best I've ever been involved with," Lerma said. "We're helping to secure one of the nation's most important structures, and I think we all take pride in that."

But there is another, deeper meaning to protecting the Golden Gate, Lerma said.

"We realize that we're not in the direct line of fire like our fellow Soldiers are in Iraq or Afghanistan, but we feel that we're helping to protect America from the threat of attack by terrorists," he said. "Sept. 11, 2001, showed that the enemy can hit us where we least expect it, right here at home. And those of us on this mission take a lot of pride in being able to do what we can to help keep the homeland secure." 

Heroes put others ahead of themselves.

Heroes defend those who can't defend themselves.

Heroes make the world a safer place.

Heroes put service above reward.

Heroes don't know they're heroes.



Congratulations on a job well done and thanks to all the unsung heroes serving stateside and overseas.

Now is the time to think about what happens after you ETS from the active Army. You have hopes and dreams for your future. Like going to college. Or serving right in your own hometown. Or adding to your retirement. Or becoming an officer or a warrant officer. There are 3,200

communities where Guard members serve. Most likely, one is at, or near, where you're going. In the Army National Guard, we can work with you to make your plans a reality. You've helped secure a better world—now let us help you secure a better future.



Contact your **Reserve Component Career Counselor**,
visit **www.I-800-GO-GUARD.com** or call **1-800-GO-GUARD EXT. 157**

A R M Y N A T I O N A L G U A R D

A Proud Year for the Guard



Story by MSG Bob Haskell
Photos by Lou Ann M. Mittelstaedt

THE Army National Guard went to war in 2003 as it had not done since the Korean conflict more than 50 years earlier. And the requests for more Guard members to

MSG Bob Haskell is assigned to the National Guard Bureau Public Affairs Office. Lou Ann M. Mittelstaedt works at the Fort McCoy, Wis., PAO.

support the Army and civil authorities waging the global war against terrorism kept on coming.

It was also the year that the Army Guard got back into the missile-defense business, began turning artillery troops into military police personnel, took charge of training Soldiers in the Afghan National Army,

and paid a heavy share of the price called "the ultimate sacrifice."

Still, the force directed by LTG Roger Schultz maintained the end-strength that Congress mandates for it to be fully funded for the seventh consecutive year. The magic number by Oct. 1 was 350,000 Guard Soldiers. The actual force stood at 350,835 on that date.

Its members can count on being busy in 2004.

More than 2,000 Guard Soldiers from field artillery battalions and a transportation company in seven states were tapped to be trained as military-police troops to replenish a strapped MP force already serving in Iraq, Afghanistan and elsewhere.

The Guard was told to field 18 provisional MP companies to serve in the continental United States, Hawaii and Germany, said COL Frank Grass, operations officer at the National Guard Bureau. The training began in November at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo.

Furthermore, the National Guard Marksmanship Training Center in Arkansas sent its Sniper School cadre to northern Iraq to begin training 101st Airborne Division Soldiers "in skills that have proved to be useful during combat operations," officials from the Combined Joint Task Force-7 reported in November.

It reportedly marked the first time since 1968 that the Army has con-



Iowa National Guard Soldiers deploy to Southwest Asia early in 2003.



National Guard Soldiers practice clearing and securing a building at an urban warfare training site before deploying to Southwest Asia.

Soldiers in seven Army Guard infantry battalions earned the Combat Infantryman Badge while serving in Iraq between late March and early September.

ducted a sniper school on foreign soil during combat operations.

Guard Soldiers proved yet again in 2003 that they can be counted on to perform their more traditional missions at home. About 800 turned out to help search for the remains of the space shuttle *Columbia* and its seven crewmembers after it broke apart Feb. 1 during re-entry and scattered debris across eastern Texas.

More than 2,500 Army and Air Guard troops in five states and the District of Columbia rescued victims from flood waters, patrolled towns, hauled drinking water and cleared highways after Hurricane Isabel roared ashore in North Carolina in late September.

The year's focus, however, was on Operation Iraqi Freedom. That included the Army Guard's part as a combat force that helped in the efforts to bring order to Iraq following the overthrow of Saddam Hussein's government after the invasion began in March.

Army Guard Soldiers — including members of the 3rd Battalion, 124th Infantry, from Florida and the 1st Bn.,

293rd Inf., from Indiana — went in harm's way almost from the outset.

"The men will never forget what we have done here and what we have seen," wrote LTC Thad Hill, whose Florida battalion took charge of a sector of medical facilities and schools in Baghdad.

Soldiers in seven Army Guard infantry battalions earned the Combat Infantryman Badge while serving in Iraq between late March and early September. About 29,000 Guard members belonging to 708 units were operating in the Iraq-Kuwait theater in the fall.

"If you were ground combat and they needed you, you [were deployed]," said COL Glenn Walker, chief of the Army National Guard Affairs Office in Kuwait at that time.

Scores also died and were wounded for the cause of freedom in 2003. Forty-three Guard Soldiers had died while participating in operations related to Iraq and Afghanistan by Dec. 8. Nineteen of them were killed in action or died from their wounds.

Three helicopter crewmembers died from injuries when



Michigan National Guard Soldiers train at Fort McCoy, Wis., before deploying overseas.



Train cars loaded with vehicles belonging to deploying National Guard units await movement from a marshalling area at Fort McCoy to the port of embarkation via commercial rail lines.

their CH-47 Chinook was shot down on Nov. 2. An Army Guard historian reported that was the first time an Army Guard helicopter was downed by hostile fire.

And the calls kept coming: Send more Guard Soldiers.

About 43,000 members of the Guard and Army Reserve were told in November that they might be mobilized for duty in Iraq, where their numbers are expected to increase by almost 40 percent, from 28,000 to 39,000, this year.

"The percentage of part-time Soldiers will climb from 22 percent now to about 37 percent by May because the Bush administration is planning to decrease overall U.S. troop levels from 130,000 to 105,000, while increasing the total number of Guard Soldiers and Reservists in the mix," USA Today reported.

Another 3,700 Guard and Reserve troops were told to prepare for duty in Afghanistan. That word came after members of three of the Army Guard's enhanced brigades were already preparing to serve in those countries this year.

Two brigades, nearly 10,000 troops, will deploy to Iraq to support two active-duty divisions earmarked to replace troops originally engaged there.

The 30th Separate Brigade from North Carolina, augmented by an infantry battalion from the New York Army Guard's 27th Inf. Bde., will deploy with the 1st Inf. Division to replace the 4th Inf. Div. in northern Iraq, the Army announced.

The Arkansas Guard's 39th Inf. Bde., augmented by a battalion from the Oregon Guard's 41st Inf. Bde., will deploy with the 1st Cavalry Div. to replace the 1st Armored Div. around Baghdad.



Another Army Guard element of about 500 Soldiers, led by Oklahoma's 45th Inf. Bde., in December began training members of the Afghan National Army. The Guard trainers took over that mission from the Army's 10th Mountain Div. and will conduct the training until next summer, Guard officials said.

"When the Department of the Army asked us to assist in this effort, we jumped at the opportunity," said COL Roosevelt Barfield, chief of training for the Army Guard.

"The Afghan National Army is a major part of post-hostilities in Afghanistan and the cornerstone for winning the peace."

Meanwhile, the aviators of Company I, 185th Aviation, based in Gulfport, Miss., began flying twin-engine C-23 Sherpas in Iraq.

Guarding the homeland took on an added dimension when the Army Guard's new 100th Missile Defense Bde. was activated Oct. 16 at Colorado Springs, Colo., under the command of COL Gary Baumann.

That brigade headquarters will command the National Guard's first ground-based, midcourse defense battalion — which is scheduled to be operational at Fort Greely, Alaska, by Oct. 1, 2004. The battalion was expected to be activated in January.

The missiles in Alaska are designed to engage missiles aimed at the continental U.S., hitting the incoming missiles between launch and the terminal segment before impact.

Taking on the new missile-defense mission is another example of how the Army Guard is ramping up to take on old jobs, as combat troops are doing in Iraq and Afghanistan. ■



PRESERVING YOURS

PRESERVE history by sharing your mail. The Legacy Project is a national all-volunteer effort to preserve wartime correspondence in hopes of giving future generations a deeper understanding of war and the sacrifices made by those who serve.



Legacy Project is seeking letters and e-mail messages written home by service members deployed to the Middle East and Korea. The correspondence can be any personal letter or e-mail on any subject, including expressions of love, patriotism, homesickness, determination and encouragement.

Photocopies or typed transcripts of letters or e-mails can be sent to Legacy Project, P.O. Box 53250, Washington, DC 20009. E-mails can be forwarded to warletterproject@aol.com. Include a name, phone number and address. Letters will not be used without the writer's permission.

Legacy Project was founded by Andrew Carroll, who edited "War Letters: Extraordinary Correspondence from American Wars," which features 200 previously unpublished letters from the Civil War through U.S. military involvement in Somalia and Bosnia.



For tips on preserving your letters, go to www.warletters.com.








Health

TAKING CARE OF YOU

WOMEN spend so much time caring for loved ones that their own health often goes neglected. Since prevention is key to healthy living, women should make preventive screenings and immunizations a priority.

Health needs differ among women according to their lifestyles and individual backgrounds. And while all women typically have the same health risks, the National Women's Health Information Center reports that minority women often have poorer health.

Some recommended screenings for women include:

-  Pap Test and Pelvic Exam
-  Mammogram
-  Colonoscopy
-  Blood Pressure Test
-  Cholesterol Tests
-  Osteoporosis Screening
-  Thyroid Test



For more information, check out www.4women.gov, a service of the Office on Women's Health, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Celebrate

ST. PATRICK'S DAY



GREEN beer and leprechauns have become American symbols of Saint Patrick's Day. But the real cause for celebration is the patron saint of Ireland, Bishop Patrick, who introduced Christianity to Ireland.

Born in Wales, St. Patrick was taken prisoner by Irish raiders and held captive for six years. Religion became his source of comfort, so St. Patrick joined the St. Germain Monastery after escaping from slavery. He later founded churches, schools and monasteries throughout Ireland.

The first St. Patrick's Day Parade took place not in Ireland, but in New York, and participants have marched down Fifth Ave. every year since 1762.



For a list of 2004 St. Patrick's Day parades check out www.saintpatricksdaysparade.com.

Money

SAVING FOR A RAINY DAY ▶

SAVING for the future takes discipline and patience, but is also an important activity for meeting financial obligations and reaching personal goals. It helps build cash reserves for emergencies, to fund next year's vacation and to build reserves for a secure retirement.

These suggestions can help you start or improve the savings regimen you already have:

▮ Always set aside money for savings and put it into an interest-earning account. The longer it sits, the larger it will grow — even if it's only \$25 a month.

▮ Put loose change in a jar instead of spending it. A few coins a day can add up to \$100 or more in six months.

▮ Scrimp on everything for one month. Save what isn't spent.

▮ Remember that "want" doesn't mean "need." Before buying, ask such questions as "How much will I want this item next week?" and "Will I have to buy something to replace it in the near future?"



▮ Take advantage of such military benefits as the commissary, Post Exchange, thrift shop, tuition assistance, health care, recreation centers and movie theaters.

▮ Study resources such as *Consumer Reports* before making a purchase. It and other consumer magazines are available in the library.



For more information on budgeting strategies, visit www.choosetosave.org

Army Emergency Relief

TAKING CARE OF OUR OWN



EMERGENCIES happen. When Soldiers and their family members are caught short, Army Emergency Relief can help.


A private, nonprofit organization, AER assists Soldiers in such financial emergencies as the unforeseen death of a family member, illness, natural disasters, vehicle repairs and non-receipt of pay. Circumstances such as the current deployment to the Middle East can also put unplanned financial stress on families adjusting to separation.

AER assistance is available to active-duty, National Guard and Reserve Soldiers, and

to retirees and widows. The money — given as interest-free loans or grants — may cover such costs as food, utilities, clothing, rent, funeral expenses, emergency travel and medical care.

All donations to AER are used to support Soldiers and their families. Support for AER comes from contributions from Soldiers and civilians during the Army's fund-raising campaign March 1 through May 15, unsolicited donations, investment income, and from loan repayments.

To support AER, make donations payable to Army Emergency Relief, Attn: Donations, 200 Stovall Street, Room 5-N-13, Alexandria, VA, 22332-0600, or contact your unit AER representative during this year's campaign.

SERVICE members from 11 countries who are part of the Multinational Force and Observers serving in Sinai, Egypt, compete against one another in the annual Force Skills Competition. The event challenges the competitors in observation and reporting skills and land navigation, and puts them through an obstacle course. SFC Rhonda M. Lawson, from the 28th Public Affairs Detachment, shares her images of Soldiers competing in the event. 



- ▲ SFC Tony Moore from the 1st Explosive Ordnance Disposal Detachment takes a deep breath as he low crawls under concertina wire on the obstacle course.
- Soldiers from the 1st U.S. Army Support Battalion maneuver through the first obstacle during the competition.







▲ SPC Dwayne Grant (right) and SGT Anthony Allsop, both from the 1st Aviation Company, bandage a simulated "crash victim" during the medical-evaluation portion of the competition.



▲ Weary members of "Team USA" change from boots to sneakers after completing the obstacle course in preparation for the 5K run.



◀ SGT Marlene Watson of Task Force Sinai makes her way up the wall on the obstacle course.

ArmyHistory in March

Beyond its role in defense of the nation, the Army and its Soldiers have contributed to medicine, technology, exploration, engineering and science. The milestones listed in this monthly chronology offer only a small glimpse of that proud story of selfless service. It is also your story.

1700s

1778 — MG Baron Von Steuben conducts his first formal drill training session for Continental Army troops at Valley Forge, Pa., March 19.

1783 — On March 12, GEN George Washington ends a mutiny by the officers of the Continental Army at a mass meeting in Newburgh, N.Y. The officers are angry at the lack of support from Congress, but Washington shames them by reminding them of his own personal sacrifices in the war.



1778

1800s

1802 — Congress establishes the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, N.Y., March 16.

1812 — President James Madison sends BG George Mathews to the Georgia-Florida border to organize and arm a group of American insurgents called "Patriots," who are seeking to overthrow the Spanish colonial government in Florida.

1814 — The Battle of Horseshoe Bend. On March 14 the 39th Infantry leads the assault against the hostile Red Stick faction of the Creek tribe. In the hand-to-hand fighting, LT Sam Houston is wounded three times.

1827 — COL Henry Leavenworth is ordered to establish a fort along the banks of the Missouri River on the edge of Indian Territory. It becomes Fort Leavenworth, Kan.

1833 — On March 2 Congress authorizes the 1st Regiment of Dragoons. Henry Dodge becomes colonel of the regiment. This unit later becomes the 1st Cavalry Regt.

1848 — MG Winfield Scott conducts the Army's first large amphibious assault, at Vera Cruz, Mexico, landing 13,000 men and supplies on March 9. He captures the town and marches on to attack Mexico City in September.

1853 — The Army Corps of Engineers, under BG Montgomery Meigs, begins construction of the north and south wings of the U.S. Capitol.

1867 — Troops of the 9th Inf. arrive in Sitka on March 30, to begin transfer of the newly purchased Alaska Territory from the Russians.

1882 — The U.S. Army Hospital Corps is established on March 1.



1911

The Army adopts the Model 1911 .45-caliber pistol.



For more about Army history, go to www.ArmoryHistoryFnd.org and www.Armory.mil/cmh.



1937

Boeing delivers the Army's first B-17 bomber, on March 1. The "Flying Fortress" goes through many variants and sees World War II service worldwide.

1900s

1901 — On March 23 an Army raiding party led by COL Frederick Funston pretends to be prisoners and penetrates the camp of Philippine rebel leader Emilio Aguinaldo, captures him and escapes to the coast.

1918 — Signal Corps pilot LT Paul Baer attacks seven German aircraft, downing one. He is the first aviator to receive the Distinguished Flying Cross.

1929 — Army troops are dispatched to several points along the troubled border with Mexico, and Army Air Service patrols are widely used. BG George Van Horn Moseley conducts critical negotiations with the Mexican authorities.



1951

Eighth Army forces launch Operation Ripper, to recapture Seoul, Korea, on Mar 7.

1943 — MG George S. Patton's II Corps, led by the 1st Inf. Div., captures El Guettar, Tunisia, on March 17, reversing the February rout of American forces at Kasserine Pass.

1944 — Army engineers parachute into the Burma jungle to assist British forces trying to halt the Japanese advance.

1962 — The Vietnamese Advisory Campaign officially begins, March 15. It is the first of 17 campaigns of the Vietnam War.

1968 — Soldiers of the 2nd Inf. Div., on patrol along the Korean DMZ on March 27, discover a North Korean infiltration group and kill three of its soldiers in a firefight.

1970 — On March 23 troops are sent to New York City to help restore order during a violent labor dispute.

1973 — CPT Floyd J. Thompson is released after nine years as a prisoner of the Viet Cong. He was the longest-held POW of the war.

1991 — The 24th Inf. Div., under MG Barry McCaffery, defeats the Iraqi Hammurabi Division when it violates the cease fire.

1994 — Chief of Staff GEN Gordon R. Sullivan announces the Force XXI project to redesign the Army to incorporate the latest advances in digital technology.

1999 — Three sergeants patrolling the Macedonian border with Kosovo are taken prisoner by Serbian forces and held for 30 days.

2000s

2003 — After dark on March 20, V Corps troops cross the berm separating Kuwait and Iraq and begin the drive to capture Baghdad.



1942

GEN Douglas MacArthur, having escaped from the Philippines, arrives in Australia on March 17. It is the first step in a long campaign that eventually results in MacArthur's triumphant return to the Philippines two years later.

Fast Fielding for



Before deploying to Afghanistan, 82nd Airborne Division Soldiers line up to sign for equipment issued to them by PEO-Soldier.

Soldier Systems

Story by Debi Dawson



TUCKED away in a wooded area on the banks of the Potomac River at Fort Belvoir, Va., is the Army's Program Executive Office-Soldier.

The agency's employees are responsible for virtually everything the 21st-century Soldier wears and carries in a tactical environment.

To support that mission, PEO-Soldier is responsible for the Rapid Fielding Initiative, an effort to get Soldiers the gear they need before they deploy.

A New Way

RFI is a new way of doing business. It speeds up the procurement of essential items, providing them in months or even weeks, instead of the years that were required under the Army's traditional procurement system.

Pushing equipment forward in a timely fashion allows Soldiers to more easily accomplish their missions, said LTC Brian Drinkwine of the 82nd Airborne Division at Fort Bragg, N.C.

"We're facing a very well-organized, sneaky and adaptable enemy. Our Soldiers need every advantage they can get, including better scopes, optics, lasers and such other equipment as the Advanced Combat Helmet and Small-Arms Protective Inserts, armor plates that fit inside the soldier's outer tactical vest," said Drinkwine.

RFI began in Afghanistan, where PEO-Soldier representatives met directly with Soldiers in the field to gather feedback and assess their needs.

As a result, several units, including

the 82nd Abn. Div., 101st Abn. Div. and 10th Mountain Div., were rapidly outfitted with the best available weapons, clothing and equipment.

"RFI is proof-positive that the Army really does care about its Soldiers," said COL Burke Garrett, commander of the 10th Mtn. Div.'s 1st Brigade. "Feedback from our units confirms that RFI has dramatically improved the individual Soldier's lethality, survivability, mobility and comfort."

PEO-Soldier is dedicated to using innovative means to serve Soldiers, such as working with existing contractors to refine equipment or converting commercial, off-the-shelf products.

The equipment issued to Soldiers through RFI includes new desert boots, the Advanced Combat Helmet, knee and elbow pads, and special tools for use in military operations in urban terrain environments.

Debi Dawson is the public affairs liaison for PEO-Soldier at Fort Belvoir, Va.

In October 2003 SGM Martinez Alexander from PEO-Soldier, LTC Robert Carpenter from PM-Crew-Served Weapons and Alton Stewart of PM-Soldier Equipment deployed to Afghanistan to talk to 10th Mountain Division Soldiers about the RFI equipment they were issued before deploying.

The team had the opportunity to talk to more than 250 Soldiers in Bagram and Kandahar.

Team members also visited troops stationed at firebases in southeastern Afghanistan, near the Pakistan border. The comments Soldiers provided about the equipment they have received were especially favorable, team members said. 🇺🇸



▲ Systems Goggles

An 82nd Abn. Div. Soldier bound for Afghanistan tries on a pair of new dust and wind goggles issued to him by PEO Soldier under the Army's Rapid Fielding Initiative (RFI).



Other equipment recently fielded to U.S. Soldiers through PEO-Soldier initiatives includes:

▲ The Soldier as a System

Historically, a Soldier's equipment fit together more by coincidence than design. The technology boom brought about the most significant transformation of the Soldier in half a century.

The Army recognized the need to focus, refine and leverage new technologies and created a single acquisition office to champion the Soldier's combat needs.

PEO-Soldier was established on June 7, 2002, to arm and equip

Soldiers for every contingency, both in wartime and peacetime. Personnel within the office achieve that goal by viewing the Soldier as a system, in the same sense that such larger weapon platforms as tanks, howitzers and aircraft function as systems that integrate with other systems.

All aspects of Soldier equipment are developed to be integrated, modular, interoperable and mission-tailored, said BG James R. Moran,

program executive officer, PEO-Soldier.

By managing the Soldier as a system, PEO-Soldier enhances Soldier performance by decreasing the amount of weight Soldiers must carry and increasing their ability to be flexible in various situations.

PEO-Soldier includes the Program Manager-Soldier Weapons, PM-Soldier Warrior and PM-Soldier Equipment.



▲ CDA and EDM

Two accelerated fielding programs under PM-Soldier Warrior include the Commander's Digital Assistant and the Electronic Data Manager.

The CDA enhances situational awareness, thereby improving communications and providing a platform for mission planning.

The Army's requirement is for an integrated, networked command-and-control capability, with situational awareness from the brigade to the dismounted leader at the squad level.

The CDA is the leader component of the Land Warrior system. It consists of five primary components — CDA platform, wireless local-area-network card, embedded commercial GPS, GPS antenna and radio-interface modem.

The 82nd Abn. Div. is testing the CDA in Iraq.

The Electronic Data Manager is being installed on helicopters deployed to Iraq, in conjunction with the Blue Force Tracking system. It will allow pilots to see their GPS location on the map, as well as the locations of other BFT-equipped helicopters and vehicles.

The EDM provides aircrews with the capability to quickly plan missions and react to mission changes in flight. It provides a user-friendly computer with an internal GPS and moving-map capability that indicates an aircraft's position and waypoints.



► Thermal Weapon Sights

The Medium and Heavy Thermal Weapon Sights are fielded to Soldiers in Iraq. The AN/PAS-13 TWS family enables individual and crew-served weapon gunners to see deep into the battlefield, increases surveillance and target-acquisition range, and penetrates obscurants by day or night.

The TWS family represents a substantial improvement over the image-intensifier night sights currently used for small arms. TWS is a second-generation, forward-looking infrared sight that is digital-battlefield compatible and provides a standard video output for training, image transfer or remote viewing.

Fielding of the Light TWS began last month.



◀ Interceptor Body Armor

Providing Soldiers with protection against bullet and fragmentation wounds is a top priority in Afghanistan and Iraq.

The Army began fielding IBA in 1999, and is phasing out the Personal Armor System Ground Troop "flak vest." The IBA is lighter and provides better protection. It also includes modular groin-, throat- and neck-protection pieces.

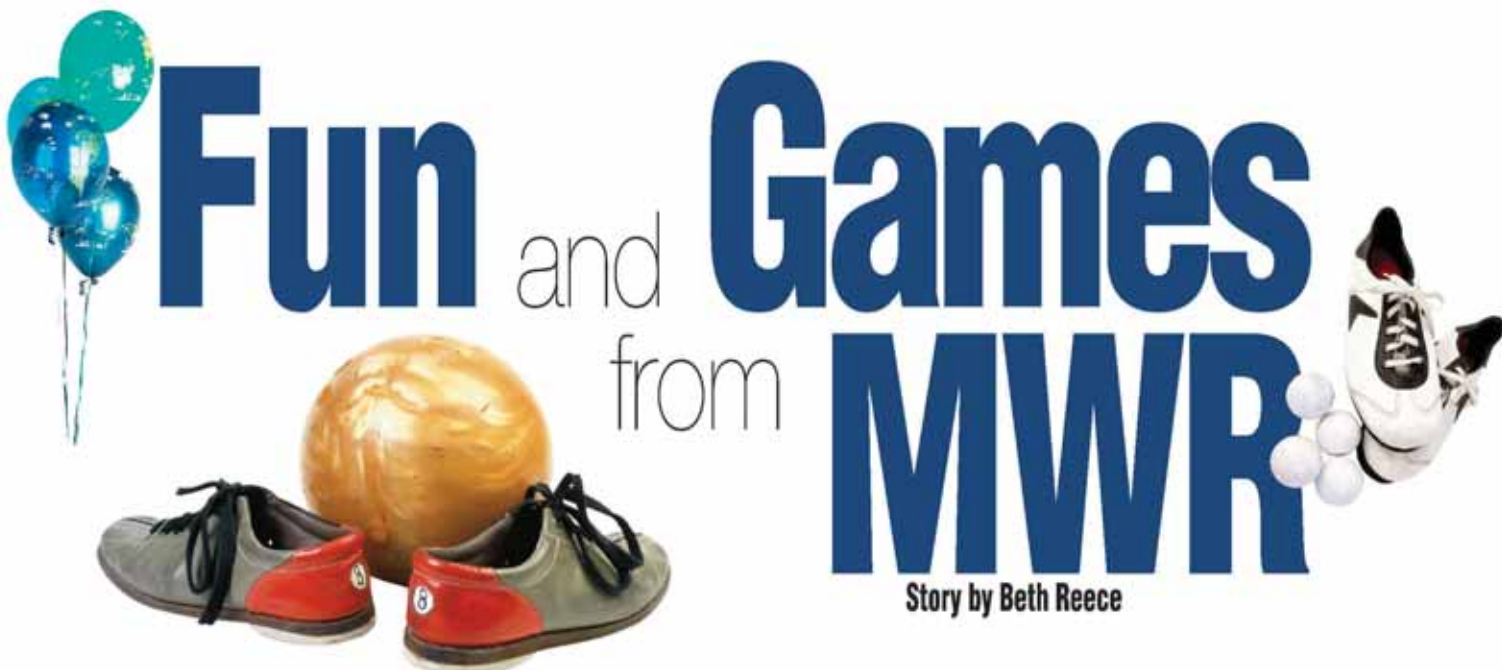
▼ Lightweight Shotgun

The Weapons office is responsible for the Lightweight Shotgun System, which was fielded to Soldiers of the 10th Mtn. Div. in Afghanistan in response to what U.S. officials called an "urgent operational need."

The weapon is intended for fighting in close quarters and has lethal, nonlethal and door-breaching capabilities. Mounted on an M-4 or M-16 Modular Weapon System, it provides Soldiers one weapon system for a variety of missions.



For more information about PEO-Soldier, visit <https://PEOSoldier.army.mil>.



Fun and Games from MWR

Story by Beth Reece

WHEN trends change, Morale, Welfare and Recreation delivers the “new and improved” to its military market. And when MWR managers want to build business, they look to the MWR’s Events Division for promotional packages that will draw customers.

“We look at social trends and the Army’s changing population to create cutting-edge promotions that appeal to Soldiers and their families,” said Coleen Amstein, director of the Events Division for the Community and Family Support Center — Business Programs.

Bowling, golf and club managers throughout the Army are taking advantage of promotional packages funded by the Department of the Army this year. Events range from the Lucky Bucket Sweepstakes, which is back for the second year by popular demand, to Nickelodeon-themed birthday parties.

Promotion packages include all point-of-sale materials and a how-to manual that steers managers from the beginning to end of each event. Even the prizes are included.

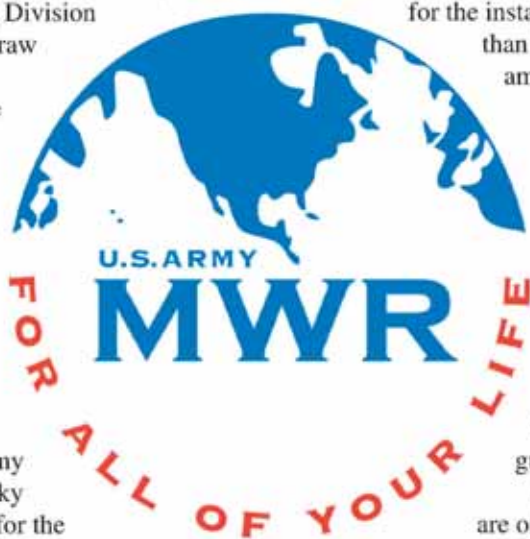
“Planning a promotion includes researching ideas, coordination, design work, selecting prizes and procuring all the materials,” Amstein said. “It’s very labor intensive, and that makes these centrally-packaged promotions affordable for the installation. There’s really no cost other than the implementation and a minimal amount of labor.”

Money made goes back into MWR programs at the installations where it’s earned. This year’s events include:

Parties

Army Bowling Centers will offer Nickelodeon-style birthday parties for children. The marketing package includes Nickelodeon-themed party goods and favors, and a guide to hosting the parties.

Adult parties are a new addition, and are offered by more than 130 bowling centers, club facilities and golf courses. Each facility has a party kit with party ideas, decorating tips and resources for supplies and decorations. Party themes range from birthdays and retirement to holidays and such special events as Academy Awards.



Bowling, golf and club managers throughout the Army are taking advantage of promotional packages funded by the Department of the Army this year.



Golf

Popular demand brings back the Lucky Bucket Sweepstakes at participating golf courses May through June. Customers have two ways to win. Golf managers will drop one "lucky" ball in the range-ball machine each week. Golfers who get the "lucky" ball win such instant prizes as

sunglasses and stereo systems.

Customers will also receive entry forms with every purchase for a national drawing to take place at the end of the promotion. Each golf course will give a mountain bike as the grand prize. Three to six "Great Golf Escape" packages will be awarded as the national prize.

NASCAR

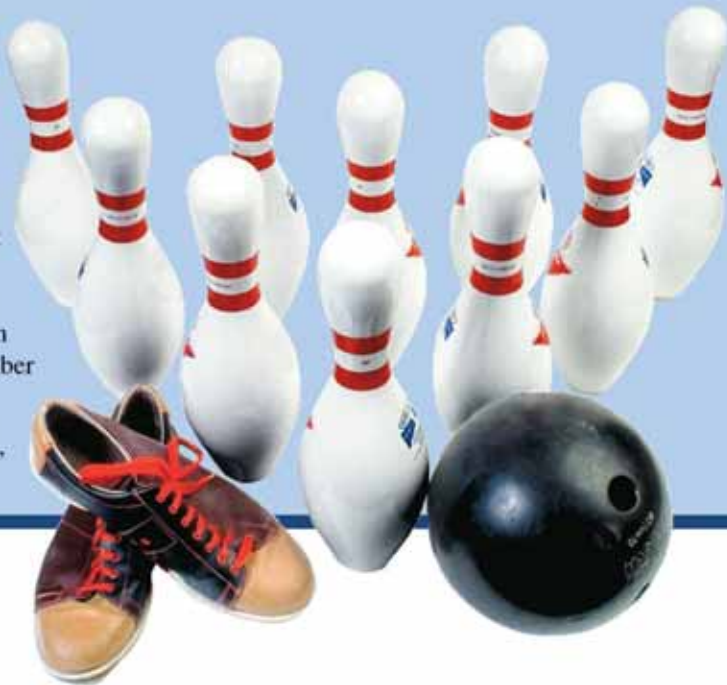
Bowling

Bowling Bucks debuts this year at 79 bowling centers. For every \$5 purchase, customers will receive a bowling buck good toward the purchase of one of three plush toys. Customers may also save their bucks for an end-of-promotion party, when extra prizes will be auctioned off. Centers will run the promotion two consecutive months between April and August. Prizes will include Harley Davidson denim shirts, bowling balls and free bowling.

Bowling centers will also present the Leading Edge Bowling Club. Members pay a weekly fee good for two games, rental shoes and a portion of a custom Viz-A-Ball that the member gets to keep after 17 games. The promotion takes place in spring and summer with the theme of "Shrek 2."

NASCAR

Almost 150 food and beverage facilities will hold a scratch-card promotion centering on NASCAR April through June. Each facility will have such instant prizes as souvenir cups and caps. Four grand-prize trips will be awarded — two to the Brickyard 400 Race and two to the Richard Petty Driving School.



A Sense of **Duty** and **Community**

WHEN football fans watch a game, they see two teams battling on the field for the ball. Many don't notice the hard work and efforts of the other team on the field, the cheerleaders. For these athletes, cheering is a way to get fans involved in the game and, at the same time, offers a way to get out in their communities.

In professional sports cheerleaders are known for their work on the field and the many public appearances they make in support of their teams. Many take on the physically demanding job while continuing with schooling or full-time careers. For **CPT Mark Citarella**, a Maryland

National Guard Soldier and five-year veteran of the Baltimore Ravens' cheerleading stunt team, being a member of the group has offered a chance to be a part of his community and bring the sport of cheerleading around the world.

"In 2002 a group of us traveled to 16 countries as part of a USO tour. One stop was in Afghanistan," said Citarella, commander of the 29th Infantry Division's Company B, 229th Maintenance Support Battalion. "It was different being there as

a civilian entertaining the Soldiers deployed there. I've always been proud to be a Soldier, but that trip gave me a whole new view of what it means to be a Soldier."

Citarella's cheerleading career began before his military career. "I was in college when I was asked to join the team. I had already participated in just about every sport offered, and I found cheerleading to be truly challenging. It takes skills from a variety of sports and combines them into one."

During his senior year in college Citarella tried out for the Ravens' cheerleading team, and in 1999 began his first year on the squad.

"By that time I was on active duty and stationed at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md.," he said. "The command was really supportive of me doing this. They thought it was great because I was out in the community not only as a Ravens cheerleader, but as a Soldier too."

The only time he hasn't been with the Ravens was during his tour of duty at Fort Hood, Texas, Citarella said. "When I came off active duty, I came back to Maryland to join the National Guard and work with the squad." He currently is the Maryland National Guard's state education officer.

"One of the greatest honors I've had while on the squad was carrying the American flag out of the tunnel at the start of the first game after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks," Citarella said. "That day definitely made me proud to be a Soldier and, at the same time, part of me was upset at not being over there with other Soldiers."

"The other squad members ask me what it's like to be a Soldier, and it's hard to explain to them what we do. I think that's why the USO tour meant so much to me. The other team members were able to see for themselves what Soldiers do, and at the same time the tour communicated to the Soldiers how much people appreciate what they're doing." 🇺🇸



OUR ARMY: SERVING A NATION AT WAR



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THE OFFICIAL UNITED STATES ARMY HOMEPAGE

SERVING NEARLY FOUR MILLION VISITORS PER MONTH FROM MORE THAN ONE HUNDRED
AND FORTY COUNTRIES CONNECTING YOU TO THE ARMY 24 HOURS A DAY EVERYDAY





Road to the Olympics

SSG Basheer Abdullah

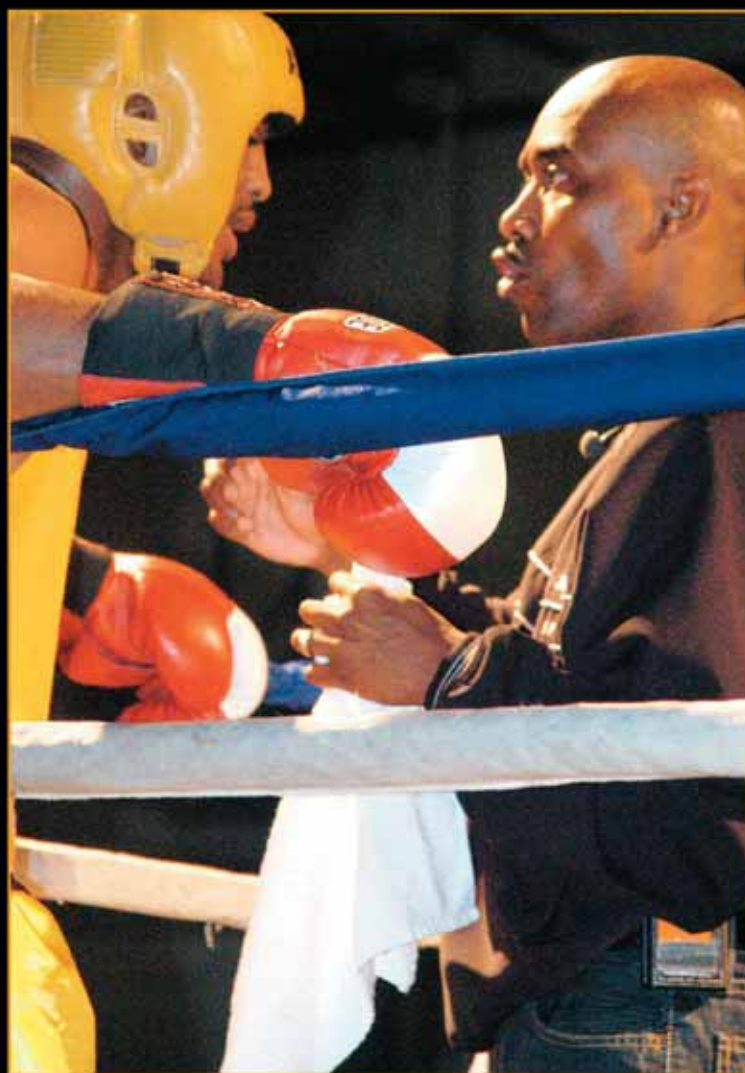


Photo by Tim Hipps

SSG Basheer Abdullah, coach of the U.S. Army World Class Athlete Program boxers at Fort Carson, Colo., was selected by USA Boxing as head coach for Team USA in the 2004 Olympic Games in Greece. Abdullah, a technical advisor for the U.S. boxing team in the 2000 Olympics, is a light-wheeled-vehicle mechanic from St. Louis, Mo.

WCAP is one of 50 morale, welfare and recreation programs the Army provides soldiers and families worldwide through the U.S. Army Community & Family Support Center.

